

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS OF OAK LAWN FOR INDEPENDENTLY FUNDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 9/11 MONUMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Oak Lawn and its commitment to honoring the heroes and victims of 9/11 with a monument to be dedicated on September 11, 2011—the ten year anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Located in my district, this community has come together to fund the construction of a monument to be built with four beams from the World Trade Center in memoriam of that tragic day and the brave first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Erik Blome, a Chicago native whose public works projects can be found throughout the nation, has unveiled a design that will include a “forest of beams” memorializing the first responders and the resiliency of the American spirit. The symbolism of beams from the World Trade Center coupled with the artistic skill of Mr. Blome will produce a lasting and poignant monument to help Oak Lawn residents remember our national loss and those heroes who responded for generations to come.

Led by the Oak Lawn Rotary Club, the residents of Oak Lawn, Illinois are coming together to raise money to fund construction of the monument. Through community fundraisers and generous donations by Oak Lawn citizens, businesses, and organizations, the local community will independently fund the Oak Lawn 9/11 Monument.

I am proud to recognize the Village of Oak Lawn for its strong history of philanthropy and community involvement. Please join me in celebrating the residents of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Rotary Club for its leadership in ensuring that the lives of the September 11th first responders are not forgotten. I know the project will continue to be a great success and I look forward to visiting the memorial once completed.

RECOGNIZING TRISTAN FISSETTE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Tristan Fissette, an exceptional and accomplished young man from the Sixth District of Illinois. Tristan is a recent recipient of a grant award from Our Military Kids and was selected as one of four honorary “Our Military Kids of the Year.”

Serving our country requires an extraordinary sacrifice from service members and their families. Founded in 2004, Our Military

Kids has provided grants to children of deployed military personnel to be put towards fine arts activities, sports programs and academic tutoring.

At the early age of eight, Tristan began taking karate lessons. His primary aspiration was to obtain a black belt by the time his father returned from his second deployment to Kuwait. With the help of a grant from Our Military Kids, and personal determination, Tristan was able to reach this goal. Tristan has also been involved in “Feed My Starving Children,” a distribution program that prepares bags of food for children in need in developing countries. At home, Tristan has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his family and community. In his father's absence, Tristan has been diligent about completing household chores and maintains excellent grades in school. As the eldest child, he has set a good example for his younger brother and sister. Tristan possesses great potential, and it will be incredible to see how he applies his talents in the future.

April is the Month of the Military Child, and as such, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate this special occasion. Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring Tristan for his remarkable achievements.

RECOGNIZING LARRY SHARP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Larry Sharp, Executive Director of the International Institute/LACASA—IILC, an organization that specializes in assisting individuals with immigration and citizenship concerns. For over 30 years, Larry has devoted his time and efforts to this organization, touching the lives of countless individuals. Mr. Sharp will be honored for his many years of service at an event hosted by the Gary Historical and Cultural Society, Inc., on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary.

Founded in 1919, the International Institute's main purpose was to assist foreign born individuals in their adjustment to American life by providing home visits with bilingual volunteers and workers. Continuing on this path, the organization continued to enhance the services it offered, and the Institute organized the first English classes for the foreign born. In 1945, a major focus of the organization was immigration and naturalization, and in 1958, the International Institute was accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to represent individuals before the Department of Homeland Security. In 2002, the International Institute and LACASA, an organization serving the Hispanic community, merged to form what is now known as the International Institute/LACASA and is also known as the International Com-

munity Alliance. Today, the organization's mission is to “serve and advocate for low and moderate-income immigrants and Hispanics in immigration, naturalization, adult education, youth leadership development, food assistance, confronting domestic abuse, promoting cultural diversity, and fatherhood programs.”

Larry Sharp was born in LaPorte, Indiana, and is a graduate of Ball State University. He joined the Peace Corps in 1969 and was stationed in Peru. There, he learned to speak Spanish and met the love of his life, his wife, Taia Carol. In 1979, Larry became Executive Director of the International Institute. Since 1982, Larry has been accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to represent individuals. Mr. Sharp continues to directly assist numerous people with citizenship and immigration issues daily. Through Larry's outstanding leadership and incredible passion, the International Institute/LACASA, has become an effective and compassionate program for all immigrants who need support.

Larry's dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Larry and his wonderful wife, Taia, have two children, Neil and Taia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Larry Sharp as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to foreign born individuals within the communities of Northwest Indiana, Illinois, and beyond. Larry continues to touch the lives of countless people, and for his unselfish, lifelong commitment, he is worthy of the highest praise.

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF PRESIDENT JOE URGO, ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I submit these inaugural remarks by an outstanding educational leader in Maryland's Fifth District, Joe Urgo, the new President of St. Mary's College.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS AS PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE—MARCH 26, 2011

(By Joe Urgo)

Thank you, Madame Chair, for your charge to me, which I accept with pleasure and with full knowledge of the weight of responsibility it entails.

Madame Chair and board of trustees, Congressman Hoyer, elected officials and their representatives, academic delegates, alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends, neighbors and family: I want to welcome each and every one of you and thank you for the honor of your company on this day.

It is traditional at this point in the ceremony for the new president to deliver an inaugural address. We're going to do that, but in a different fashion, which I will explain shortly. I'd like my inaugural address to drive home three linked points, and I'll need some help doing so. First, that our past informs our present—we cannot be effective

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